

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 26 and 27 are cancelled without prejudice and claims 1, 10 and 19 are amended. A listing of the claims and their status are provided below.

1. (Currently Amended) An anastomotic system for positioning a bypass graft comprising:
a tissue dilator having at a distal end a dilating tip;
a tissue puncturing tool ^{slidably} supported within the dilator and adapted to puncture a tissue wall to form
an orifice enlargeable by the dilating tip;
an elongate and flexible sheath defining a lumen and having a proximal end and a distal end, said sheath moveable along the dilator; and
a plunger slidably disposed within the sheath lumen and configured to advance at least a portion of a tubular bypass graft through the sheath distal end;
wherein the sheath and plunger are each ~~split or splittable to be~~ ^a removable from around the graft.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 additionally comprising a fitting affixed to the graft.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the fitting comprises a tubular portion with a proximal end and a distal end, and wherein at least one self-expanding petal is disposed on the tubular portion distal end and is adapted to compress into a low profile for insertion through a sheath and self-expand towards at least one resting geometry upon advancing beyond the sheath distal end.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) The system of claim 1 additionally comprising a hub and hemostatic valve assembly disposed on a proximal portion of the sheath.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the dilator has a tapered distal end.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the tissue puncturing tool comprises a needle.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the tissue puncturing tool comprises a needle and guidewire.
10. (Currently Amended) A system for positioning an anastomotic fitting in a vessel comprising:
 - an anastomotic fitting;
 - a tissue dilator having at a distal end a dilating tip;
 - a tissue puncturing tool ^{slidably} supported within the dilator and adapted to puncture a tissue wall to form an orifice enlargeable by the dilating tip;
 - an elongate and flexible sheath having a lumen, a proximal end and a distal end, said sheath moveable along the dilator;
 - a plunger slidably disposed within the sheath lumen and configured to advance at least a portion of the fitting through the sheath distal end;
 - wherein the sheath and plunger are each ~~split or splittable to be~~ removable from around the fitting.
11. (Original) The system of claim 10 additionally comprising a tubular bypass graft affixed to the fitting.
12. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the fitting comprises a tubular portion with a proximal end and a distal end, and wherein at least one self-expanding petal is disposed on the tubular portion distal end and is adapted to compress into a low profile for insertion through a sheath and self-expand towards at least one resting geometry upon advancing beyond the sheath distal end.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Original) The system of claim 10 additionally comprising a hub and hemostatic valve assembly disposed on a proximal portion of the sheath.

16. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the dilator has a tapered distal end.
17. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the tissue puncturing tool comprises a needle.
18. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the tissue puncturing tool comprises a needle and guidewire.
- insert B1* 19. (Currently Amended) An anastomotic system for positioning a bypass graft comprising:
slidably supported within the dilator and
a tissue puncturing tool adapted to puncture a tissue wall to form an enlargeable orifice;
an elongate sheath having a proximal end and a distal end and defining a lumen therebetween, said sheath being adapted to be advanced through said tissue wall and positioned within said orifice; and
an inserter slidably disposed within the sheath lumen and adapted to advance at least a portion of a tubular bypass graft through the sheath distal end;
wherein the sheath and ~~plunger inserter~~ *a* ~~are each split or splittable to be removable from around the~~ graft.
20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19 further comprising a tissue dilator having at a distal end a dilating tip.
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the tissue puncturing tool is slidably supported within the dilator.
22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19 further comprising a fitting affixed to the graft.
23. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 22 wherein a distal end of the graft is everted over a distal end of the fitting.
24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the fitting comprises a tubular portion with a proximal end and a distal end, and wherein at least one self-expanding

petal is disposed on the tubular portion distal end and is adapted to compress into a low profile for insertion through a sheath and self-expand towards at least one resting geometry upon advancing beyond the sheath distal end.

25. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 further comprising an everting tool adapted to evert a distal portion of the graft for placement within the orifice.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the elongate sheath is flexible.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the sheath has a tapered distal end.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the tissue puncturing tool comprises a needle.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the tissue puncturing tool comprises a needle and a guidewire.